

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. In response, Applicants have amended claim 8 to now recite “a computer readable program product.” In view of same, Applicants believe that the amendment is responsive to the issues raised by the Examiner, and thus, this rejection should be withdrawn in view of same.

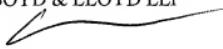
Further, the claims have been rejected for alleged anticipation and obviousness reasons, primarily in view of U.S. Patent No. 2003/0179083 (“Wallace”). In response, each of the independent claims have been amended to further recite wherein N is 2 or more. At least for this reason, Applicants believe that the cited art should be considered distinguished from the claimed invention where the Patent Office even admits that Wallace only teaches N=1. See, Office Action, page 6. Moreover, Applicants do not believe that the remaining cited art can be relied on solely to remedy the deficiencies in Wallace. Therefore, Applicants believe that the anticipation and obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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